scuttle the same threaten India's technological progress; and

(b) whether Government have adopted suitable policy measures to meet such high-handed attitude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India is of the view that US criticism of the Agni launch will not affect India's technological progress adversely. India's Agni programme is indigenous and not dependent on foreign technology.

Effects of Atmospheric pollution on Taj

@2674. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 10th July, 1989 to the effect that one Italian firm and several scientific organisations have been playing a hoax on the nation for the last 17 years by first claiming that the Taj is threatened by atmospheric pollution and then by asserting that pollution is non-existent according to the environment specialist; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is baseless. The ambient air in respect of Sulphur dioxide and other pollutants, as well as the metereological data around the Taj Mahal are continuously being monitored and remedial measures are undertaken as required.

Expenditure incurred by ITDC on the running of its Hotel Sales/Marketing Division

2675. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Hotel Sales Department/Marketing Division in the ITDC;

(b) if so, what are the aims, objectives and main highlights of this Division with the list of executives and non-executives on its strength as on date and future requirements; and

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred by ITDC on the running and maintenance of this Department for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) A Hotel Sales Wing under Hotels Division exists in ITDC at the Corporate level.

(b) The requisite information is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 159].

(c) The total direct identifiable expenditure incurred by the ITDC on the running and maintenance of Hotel Sales Wing was approximately as under, during last 3 years:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Expenditure
1986-87	32.41
1987-88	41.07
1988-89	45.08

@Previously Unstarred Question 1980, transferred from the 27th July, 1989.